

**EAST COUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD  
MINUTES**

**Final**

**Meeting of May 7, 2008**

Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center  
3300 Briggs Chaney Road  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20904

**Members Present:** Kim Bobola, PhD (Chair), Colleen Ionata (Vice Chair), Sheala Durant (Secretary), Bill Strassberger (Parliamentarian), Thomas Aylward, Tracy DuPree Davis, Marva R. Deskins, G. Stanley Doore, Kim Jones, Allan Mulligan, Prasiddh Sinha, Benoy Thomas, John Thomas, and Andre Carl Whisenton.

**Members Absent:** Kimberly Y. Campbell

**Staff:** Anise Key Brown, (Director, EMRSC); and Chris Briggs (PAA, EMRSC)

**Guests:** Jeanette Mendonca (Community Liaison, Senator Rona Kramer's office), Tami Bulla, Terri Philbrick, Stuart Rochester, Scott Graham, Claire Iseli, Mara M. Parker (Staff, Councilmember Marc Elrich's office), and Barbara Foresti (White Oak Master Plan Committee).

**Call to Order:** The chair called the meeting to order at 7:25 p.m.

Community Liaison Jeanette Mendonca presented an official citation to ECCAB member Prasiddh Sinha for outstanding service to the community and achieving his United States Citizenship.

**Citizen's Forum:** Chair Bobola welcomed everyone. Guests were asked to introduce themselves and identify any issues or concerns that they wished to share with the Board. Additionally, they were requested to state, orally or in writing, what action they wanted the Board to take.

- No issues or concerns were identified.

**Speakers:** Chair Bobola announced that Executive Assistant Chief Scott Graham of Montgomery County Department of Fire Rescue and Roylene M. Roberts of Montgomery County Department of Housing and Community Affairs would address the board this evening.

1. **Scott Graham, Executive Assistant Chief,** explained that Fire Chief Tom Carr was unable to attend this meeting due to a scheduling conflict.

**Ambulance Transport Fee Proposal**

Mr. Graham informed the board that a bill will be introduced to the County Council on June 10 regarding the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) transport fee.

- The EMS transport fee has existed in the Metro region since the earlier 90s. In most cases, this fee is covered by health insurance policies, including Medicare and Medicaid.
- This proposal will not result in an increase in county taxes. Revenues raised (e.g., estimated at \$14 million the first year) would support new fire stations county wide, fire apparatus replacement, and recruit programs.
- There will be no change in the day-to-day operations of Fire and Rescue Services.
- Billing would be handled by hospital intake workers, not EMS workers, and processed through the insurance companies.

### **Public Education Program**

A comprehensive public education program (e.g., print, radio, television media and local meetings) will be undertaken to disseminate information to the public and address the following concerns:

- The fear of being billed. Since county residents will not be billed, this should not inhibit residents from calling for emergency services.
- The concern that health insurance rates would go up. Insurance rates are based on regional factors, and not on local or county factors.

**Q&A session** followed.

2. **Roylene Roberts (Department of Housing and Community Affairs)** gave an update on Burtonsville Revitalization. The county has enlisted the help of two consultant teams – Basile Bauman Prost Cole & Associates, and Rhodeside & Harwell – to develop a Community Legacy Plan. This plan will address the strengths and weaknesses of the community and propose strategies to address the identified issues.

- The consultants have scheduled an outreach meeting with the public to be co-hosted by the East County Citizens Advisory Board (ECCAB) at the Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center on May 29 at 7:00 p.m. There will also be an outreach meeting with Burtonsville Businesses on the same day at 12:00 noon.
- The purpose of the May 29 meetings is for residents to advise the consultants. Residents will be asked to let the consultants know how they view the strengths and weaknesses of the community, and how they would choose to address them.
- In June, the consultants will return with three scenarios for discussion and consensus building. These scenarios will identify the projects that Montgomery County will include in a submission for State grant funding (e.g., \$5.5 million available in a grant competition).

**Approval of Minutes:**

Chair Bobola asked members of the board to review the April 2<sup>nd</sup> minutes for revisions.

**[May 7, 2008 – 1]** A motion to approve the minutes of April 2<sup>nd</sup> 2008 was offered. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

**Council's Report: Claire Iseli**

- **County Budget** (Fiscal Year 2009 Montgomery County Operating Budget and the FY09-14 CIP) – County Council will take a straw vote on May 15, prior to the official vote on May 22.
- **Zoning Ordinance.** Councilmember Roger Berliner has introduced a bill concerning the size of dwellings that can be built on a certain sized lot. The Code Enforcement Workgroup (of which Claire Iseli is a member) made recommendations to Councilmember Berliner and asked him to make changes in his bill before submittal.
- **ICC/East County Properties.** The State Highway Administration (SHA) had purchased property at Route 198 and Peach Orchard Road from the Winchester Home community in 2002. The purchase agreement from the state allowed Winchester to re-purchase the property should it not be used for a northern alternative route for the ICC. The SHA litigated, and Winchester Homes won the right to buy back the property.

**Director's Report: Anise Key Brown**

1. **Nominations of ECCAB Officers.** Anise Key Brown called for nominations for new board officers for Chair; Vice Chair; Secretary; and Parliamentarian. She listed the members leaving the current board: Tracy Dupree-Davis, Kim Jones, Andre Carl Whisenton, and Ishmael Gamma.

Each current officer was nominated to continue serving in their respective position (Chair Kim Bobola, Vice Chair Colleen Ionata, Secretary Sheala Durant, and Parliamentarian Bill Strassberger). Each nomination was seconded and approved. Anise Key Brown then announced that the nominees would be confirmed at the June ECCAB meeting.

2. **Cloverly Day.** Anise Key Brown thanked ECCAB board members for their help with Cloverly Day and asked for support from the board for the upcoming "Step up in Style" program at the EMRSC.
3. **Ceremony.** Anise Key Brown announced the unveiling ceremony for the renaming of the Fairland Recreation Center and Fairland Library to the "Marilyn J. Praisner Center," on Saturday, June 7, 2008.
4. **Colesville Strawberry Festival.** Anise Key Brown also asked that board members volunteer for the Colesville Strawberry Festival on May 31. A sign up sheet was circulated.

## **Chair's Report: Announcements**

1. **White Oak Recreation Center:** The chair thanked the board members who attended the planning meeting and the community forum on the White Oak Recreation and Community Center.
2. **Interview Panel.** Kim Jones and Tom Aylward were acknowledged for their time and expertise in serving on the interview panel for individuals interested in filling vacancies on ECCAB.
3. **Testimony.** The chair discussed the county council testimony that was written to reflect the ECCAB priorities. They included: Paint Branch High School, a new Fire station in East County, Burtonsville Revitalization and transportation issues.
4. **Community Yard Sales.** Board support was requested for Community Yard Sales organized by Anjoo Chohda of the Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center.
5. **Information Update.** Stan Doore was acknowledged for attending the National Center for Smart Growth Forum at the University of Maryland and disseminating to ECCAB the information that he had received.
6. **Gang Awareness.** A Gang Awareness workshop was held at Springbrook High School.

## **Committee Reports**

### **Economic Development and Infrastructure Committee: Tom Aylward, Chair**

- **Burtonsville Revitalization:** At its last meeting, the EDI Committee discussed development and infrastructure issues/concerns relating to Burtonsville Revitalization. The focus was the area along Route 198 between Dino Drive and Santini Road, and challenges that small businesses and land owners face in dealing with the Montgomery County Permitting Services.
- **Sidewalks to Nowhere.** Tom Aylward asked for help from each board member in photographing sidewalks in East County that go nowhere. Please bring the photographs, along with identifying information, to the next ECCAB meeting on June 4, so they can be catalogued.

### **Services Committee: Colleen Ionata, Chair**

- **County Reorganization:** The Services Committee was asked to prepare a briefing to the board on the county government's reorganization plan. In response to this request, Colleen Ionata presented highlights of the reorganized plan. The larger overhauls were as follows:

1. Transfer of responsibilities of the Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPWT), Facilities and Services and Capital Planning, Design and Construction from DPWT to the Department of General Services;
2. Transfer of the Division of Solid Waste from DPWT to the Department of Environmental Protection;
3. Abolishment of the Department of Homeland Security and establishment of the Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security;
4. Move the Office of Internal Audits from Finance to the County Executive's Office.

This reorganization plan has no budget impact. There were 225 reductions-in-force (RIFs), but not due to the reorganization plan. A total of 1000 early retirements were offered. Approximately 10% are expected to participate.

**Outreach Committee:** Marva Deskins, Chair

- **Litter Letter:** A draft letter was presented to the board for review. The purpose of the letter was to inquire with DPWT about the amount of litter that board members see in areas of East County and the enforcement of litter laws.
- **Student Member of ECCAB.** Marva Deskin detailed a proposal for adding a Student Member to ECCAB. The committee is deciding about the role and responsibilities of a student member.
- **Leadership Summit.** Marva Deskin discussed the proposal for the Leadership Summit to be held in October. The tally of issues of concern to the public is as follows: (1) education; (2) public safety; (3) health care access; (4) affordable housing, and (5) transportation.

**Old Business**

There was no old business.

**New Business**

- **\$100 Laptop.”** Stan Doore showed a real OLPC (One Laptop Per Child) to ECCAB, and explained that the OLPC was designed at MIT. More than a half million OLPCs have been sold by a non-profit organization and given to less developed countries. Information can be found at OLPC.COM or Laptop.org.
- **Litter Letter.** Board members offered revisions.

[May 7th, 2008 – 2] A motion to approve the “**Litter Letter**” with revisions was offered. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned 9:20 p.m.

*The next meeting will be held on June 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:15 p.m.*